



THIRD BASEMAN

1. The corner infielders need to take the bunt away against good hitters with speed.
2. Any time a hard hit bunt is placed directly down 3B line the third baseman should field ball. He may turn a wheel throw to SS if covering third, or come up throwing to first base.
3. It's much safer and more effective to use the glove on a slow roller than bare handing the ball. If the ball is rolling—use your glove.
4. With a tied score or a one run lead the corner infielders should protect the foul/fair lines by positioning themselves much closer to the line.
5. With more than a two run lead, play normal position as a double isn't going to hurt that much.
6. Third baseman is relay to home from a LF hit. He can take time to line himself up—listening to catcher and understanding when he needs to make the cut. If ball is dying or is more than 3' off line—he must cut.
7. Third baseman needs to know the strength of the outfielder's arm when being a relay to home.
8. Third baseman needs to know when to just block an errant throw and when to attempt a great catch and tag out play. Rule of thumb—tying or go ahead run could score from 2B—BLOCK THE BALL.
9. Third baseman should play the power hitting left-handed hitter in the 5-6 hole and deep. Most left-handed hitters don't hit ball directly down 3B line.
10. ON tag plays—we like to have the third baseman just in front of the base with his foot touching the side of the base. This way a sliding player will not disrupt the player and the third baseman will always know where the player will be sliding. The key to this is allowing the ball to travel, not reaching out to catch the ball. The thrown ball travels much farther than a third baseman can move his glove.
11. On throws to third from right side of infield—third baseman should receive ball on inside of base. Opposite on rest of plays.
12. Common errors of a third baseman. Runner on 2nd, nobody out. MISTAKE 1—charging when batter squares. The batter will pull back and the runner will steal 3rd uncontested. MISTAKE 2—Not charging after the ball is bunted, allowing batter to reach 1B and runner to reach 3B. OUR WAY—Play a few feet in front of 3rd. In this level of play—on a bunt CHARGE and get the out at first. It is very difficult to get the out at 3rd.

DRILLS to PRACTICE at HOME

- Grounders, turning two, covering base.
- Practice covering base from different positions. Work on accurate low throws to first.
- Practice grounders to your right side and making the throw to 1st.
- General grounder/infield practice.

Practice forehand and backhand short-hop catches